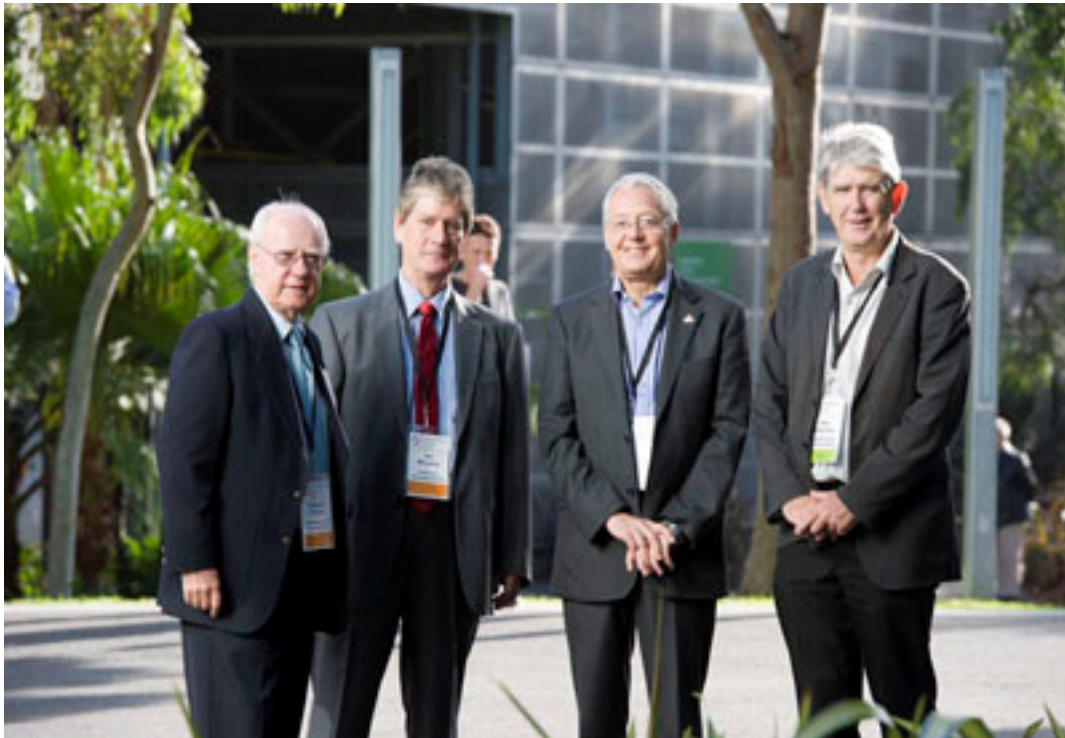


Making Big Plans



These four co-operators (L—R) Richard O’Leary (Chief Executive Officer, Macleay Regional Co-operative and IYC National Committee), Ian McLaren (General Manager, SouthEast), Mervyn Wilson (Chief Executive and Principal UK Co-operative College) and John McNerney (Managing Director, CEHL) pictured outside the Zinc, Federation Square, 8 March 2012, share a belief in co-operative values and principles, that the co-operative model is not business as usual and that the potential for the growth of co-operatives is unlimited. The Housing Co-operatives Conference was organised by CEHL and sponsored by bankmecu and SouthEast. There were over 308 participants.

Panel Pride

A highlight of the conference was a SouthEast panel presentation, rather than a single presenter as was the case for the other co-operatives. The SouthEast panel composed of: Shirley Faram, Andrea Lee, Tracey Hall , Louise Kloot and Ian McLaren. Co-housing from Tasmania made a joint presentation.



NEW SOUTHEAST WEB SITE

Select Language ▼ Search...

Mon 16th, Apr 2012 -- Updated 04:03:00 PM GMT

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GENERAL MEETING 27 FEBRUARY 2012

28 February 2012

Forty members attended the general meeting of members between 7:16 - 8:00p.m. on 27 February 2012 at the View Room, Dandenong Club, 1579 Heatherton Road, Dandenong. The meeting provided an opportunity to preview the SEHC documentary The Other Way Home and an advertorial. The guest speaker for the general meeting was the Principal and Chief Executive of the UK...

IYC 2012 and Australia Post

20 January 2012

On the 15 February 2012 there was a launch of the Australia Post 2012...



SEHC Documentary and Advertorial

National Co-operative Housing Conference

Annual General Meeting and Annual Report

Your Co-op Needs You

Board Public Records

IYC 2012 Collectable Coin

Member Surveys

SEHC - The Phoenix

A Chair and a Person



AGM GALLERY



Above are some pictures taken at the South East Housing Co-operatives Annual General Meeting 21st November 2011

SouthEast is committed to increased transparency and accountability. Central to this is improved communication with members. As part of this, we have been reviewing the web site and have developed a series of improvements to the site to make it more accessible and relevant for members. Members were invited to provide feedback on the test web site and we are grateful to the three members who took up this opportunity to provide feedback. We hope that members will feel free to provide feedback in the future as this will always be welcome. In the future, we will also invite members to respond to a survey on the web site and your participation in this survey will be appreciated.

Privacy: SouthEast is committed to protecting your privacy and complying with all applicable privacy laws. If you have any questions or comments about our privacy practices, we can be contacted at PO Box 7141, Dandenong Phone: 3175. 03 9706 8005. Fax 03 9706 8558

What's new to sehc.org.au?

The main changes to sehc.org.au have been to provide a lot more information that is more accessible to members.

New features:

Tenancy and Maintenance (under the main menu Services).

Three online contact forms: for General Queries, Maintenance Requests and Tenancy Queries.

Google Translate—to enable the site to be translated into the language of visitors.

Comment—providing the option for members to comment on content subject to compliance with Contributor Guidelines (p 4)

Blog - providing the opportunity for members to initiate discussions subject to compliance with Contributor Guidelines (p 4)

Printing—the option to print articles rather than the web page the article is on.

Email—the option to email articles.

Share—the ability to share content with social media. e.g. Twitter, Facebook. Reddit, Stumble Upon, Tumblr and about 324 more.

Calendar of SouthEast events including board meetings.

Web Statistics—regular reports on visits to the web site.

Disclaimer Statement—not on the old site.

Privacy Statement—not on the old site.

Font size—the option to increase and decrease the font size.

Later this year we will be asking members to provide feedback on the web site. In the meantime, any comments and suggestions would be welcome. Please provide these to the General Manager Ian McLaren.

Our thanks to three members who visited the site when it was in a test phase and for their extensive visit duration and subsequent commentary which was very helpful in the development of the site.

New sehc.org.au contributor guidelines

Guidelines have been developed for contributions to the site – particularly important as the site has the capacity for visitor comments on articles and a blog.

The guidelines are:

1. A comment or blog is not automatically posted to the site. It is subject to approval.
2. Comments or blogs will be either approved or not approved. They will not be edited.
3. Comments or blogs that involve personal attacks or that are hurtful and insulting will not be approved.
4. A swear word may work in a comment or blog but gratuitous profanity will not be approved.
5. Don't write your whole comment or blog in capital letters.
6. Comments or blogs should be brief and should not exceed 250 words.
7. Comments or blogs that contain racist, sexist or homophobic remarks or could be interpreted as such will not be approved.
8. Try to explain your arguments so that other readers can understand what point you are making.
9. Defamatory comments or blogs are unacceptable and will not be approved.
10. Comments or blogs from or on behalf of companies or businesses that advertise their products and/or services will not be approved.
11. Comments on articles that are off topic and unrelated to the article and other comments on the article and don't contribute to the discussion will not be approved.

The Contributor Guidelines will be reviewed by the board's Governance and Policy Committee in July or August 2012. Any feedback on the guidelines would be welcome. Provide feedback to the General Manager Ian McLaren.

As well as this newsletter, the guidelines can be found on the new site—sub menu **Contributions** under the Main Menu **About Us**.

Contributions: SouthEast would welcome member contributions to the newsletter. Interested members should contact the General Manager Ian McLaren.

Co-operative Housing Project

The Co-operative Housing Project was established by rental housing co-operatives to develop a report that would identify, establish and promote the value of the co-operative housing model. Borderlands was commissioned to prepare the report.

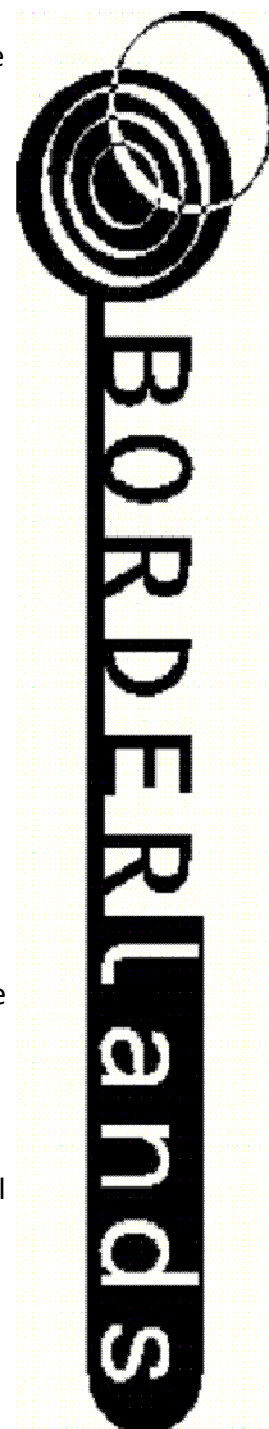
Borderlands Cooperative is a non-profit co-operative involved in community, social and international development, ecological sustainability and social justice. Amongst other things, it provides consultancy to service providers, government and community organisations in the form of program, service and organisational evaluation, social impact research and needs analysis. (<http://www.borderlands.org.au/BLpages/aboutus.htm>)

The report is expected to argue that:

- The co-operative housing model is already viable in Australia.
- Overseas experience demonstrates the potential for growth in Australia.
- Co-operative housing has benefits and strengths that are not available from public housing and other community housing providers.
- Housing diversity is critical and co-operative housing is an important part of this diversity.
- Co-operative housing is not just about entitlements, for it enables members to own and control their own destinies.
- The development of co-operative housing must be based on co-operative values and principles.
- There is a clear and practical pathway for the growth of co-operative housing.

The report is expected to be available in May/June 2012. Members interested in obtaining a copy of the report when it becomes available should contact the General Manager Ian McLaren. When available, the report will be uploaded to sehc.org.au.

The production of the report is timely as the Victorian Government is currently preparing a policy on housing and a discussion paper has been released.





The films were uploaded to YouTube on 29 February 2012. At the 29 April 2012 *The Other Way Home* documentary had been viewed 574 times—a total of more than 6600 minutes or 110 hours

Total YouTube views—1688

The Trailer (682)

<http://youtu.be/z1Y813L-xR4> 2m

The Other Way Home (709)

<http://youtu.be/9R4ZCACLgJE> 12m 41s

Advertorial—Co-operation Works (687)

<http://youtu.be/x59NDnT3apo> 30s

Numbers in brackets—times viewed as at 13 May 2012.

The Chief Executive and Principal of the UK Co-operative College, Mervyn Wilson, has provided this review of *The Other Way Home*:

The Statement on Co-operative Identity adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance in 1995 states that co-operatives are there to meet the common, economic, social and cultural needs of their members through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise. *The Other Way Home* provides compelling evidence of this in the context of the SouthEast Housing Co-operative. The film uses the testimonies of members whose lives have been transformed for the better in that they have been able to get a home, as compared to simply somewhere to live, through the co-operative. Members' pride in their homes and in the co-operative they are part of radiates from their and their families' smiling faces as they tell their stories. The visuals from the members' meetings bear witness to the thriving active participation they have developed. But these are not affluent families – the co-operative is in the social housing sector, providing quality social housing for low income groups, often priced out of the private rental sector, which is witnessed by the tales of the repeated number of moves families have gone through before joining the co-operative.



The United Nations has stated that: "Co-operatives provide health, housing and banking services; they provide and promote education and gender equality and they protect the environment and workers' rights. Through these and a range of other activities they help people better their lives and those of their communities."

The Other Way Home provides evidence of this, and proves what the ILO states in its document *Working out Poverty*: "Co-operative members learn from each other, innovate together, and by increasing control over their livelihoods build up a sense of dignity the experience of poverty destroys."

MORE SOUTHEAST FILMS

A series of short films on Co-operative Practice are being produced for SouthEast by Trade Creative. The seven films run for a total of about 37 minutes and feature the Chief Executive and Principal of the Co-operative College, Mervyn Wilson, speaking about key issues of Co-operative Practice: Directors, Education, Governance, International, Membership, Principles and Social Enterprise. The films will be used for induction and available on the SouthEast web.

Authorised by Shirley Faram, on behalf of the SouthEast Board, May 2012. SouthEast Housing Co-operative Ltd, PO Box 7141, Dandenong, 3175. 03 9706 8005. Fax 03 9706 8558 Web Site: <http://www.sehc.org.au>

International Recognition

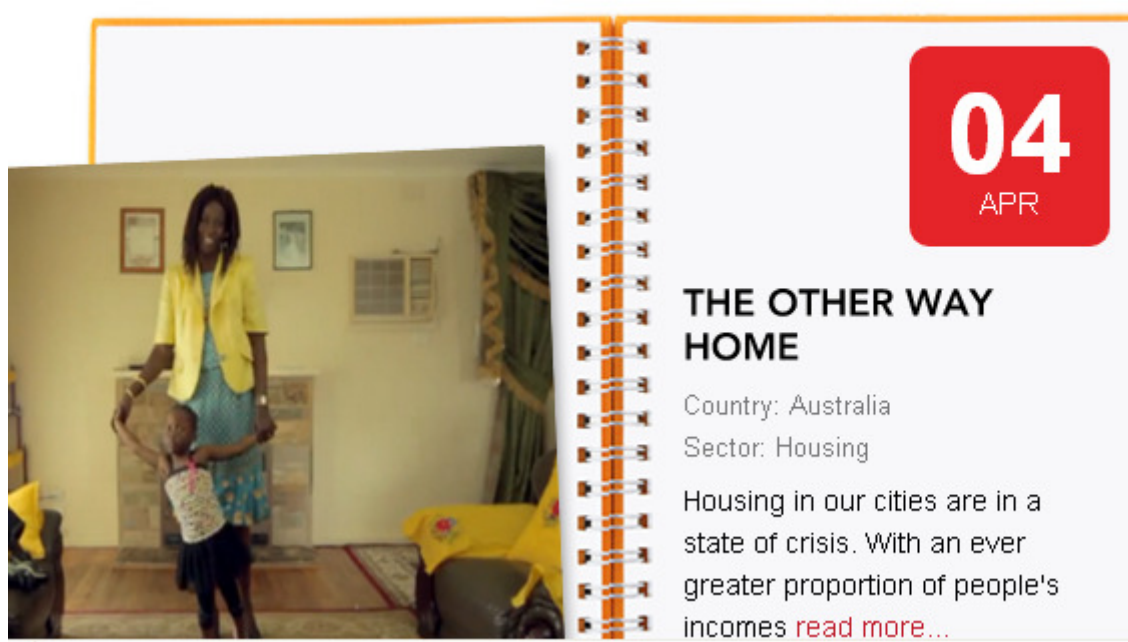


The teaser of The Other Way Home documentary was front page news on two international web sites on 4 April 2012:

<http://www.stories.coop>—Story of the Day

<http://www.ica2012.coop>—04 The Other Way Home

Story of the Day





Zinc, Federation Square, the venue for the National Housing Co-operatives Conference, 8 March 2012. Photo Credit: CEHL

NATIONAL HOUSING CO-OPERATIVES CONFERENCE 8 MARCH 2012



A view of the participants at the National Housing Co-operatives Conference 8 March 2012. Photo credit: CEHL



bankmecu's Rowan Dowland with the SouthEast banner Our Time to Shine to his immediate left. Photo credit: CEHL

NATIONAL HOUSING CO-OPERATIVES CONFERENCE 8 MARCH 2012



L-R: Melinda Oogjes and Linda S Seaborn, Cohousing Co-operative, Tasmania Photo credit: CEHL

Future 2012 board meetings—01 June, 29 June, and 27 July.

More information—General Manager Ian McLaren. Public records of board meetings are uploaded to the SouthEast website.



L—R Rob Wardell, United Housing, in discussion with Greg Nolan, SouthEast member. Greg is also on the SouthEast Communications Working Party. Photo credit: CEHL

NATIONAL HOUSING CO-OPERATIVES CONFERENCE 8 MARCH 2012



Mervyn Wilson, Chief Executive and Principal, UK Co-operative College, was the Keynote speaker. Photo credit: CEHL

State wide public housing waiting list falls

Thursday, 19 April 2012

Minister for Housing Wendy Lovell today released the public housing waiting list figures, which show a state wide fall in the March 2012 quarter, the third quarterly fall in a row. The total number of applicants for the March quarter fell by 679 (1.8 per cent) from 38,566 in December 2011 to 37,887. The March quarterly report showed waiting lists had dropped across five of the eight regions. "We're working hard to reduce the waiting list through better management and a new approach," Ms Lovell said. "However there will always be fluctuations as we work to improve a system that Labor allowed to fall into decay." Ms Lovell said that the Victorian Coalition Government had been left to address a crisis in the public housing portfolio after more than a decade of systemic neglect and mismanagement by the former Labor Government. "The Victorian Auditor General's report into public housing spelled out only too clearly the problems we have been left to clean up," Ms Lovell said. "Labor's legacy over its 11 years in government includes a massive maintenance backlog and a blowout in the length of time people wait to be housed."



Wendy Lovell,
Minister for Housing

Lucky Lovell Can't Hide Housing Data At Easter

04 April 2012

The Housing Minister, Wendy Lovell, should release overdue Victorian Public Housing Waiting list data immediately, rather than trying to sneak it out tomorrow afternoon, Shadow Minister for Housing Richard Wynne said today. The data, which details how many people are waiting for public housing during January to March 2012, has been sitting in Ms Lovell's office since last week. Ms Lovell has a terrible track record of dumping out the waiting list data late on a Friday afternoon to avoid scrutiny," Mr Wynne said. "I wouldn't be surprised if Ms Lovell quietly drops the data out late tomorrow, just before the Easter long weekend, in a poor attempt to hide the list. "What Ms Lovell needs to understand is the management of Victoria's public housing system is too important to play games with. "Given the Baillieu Government's failure to invest in new housing stock and concerns that it may sell off public housing to the private sector, it is important these waiting list figures aren't hidden from the community. "While the Federal Labor Government's record investment in public and social housing is continuing to bring new housing into the market, Ms Lovell can't use this investment as an excuse to do nothing. "This lack of support from the Baillieu Government will only cause the waiting list to balloon, once the 6000 federally funded properties are completed in June this year." Ms Lovell's failure to support public housing tenants in Victoria includes: Fore-shadowing selling off public housing; Releasing a homelessness 'plan' that failed to set out any plans for assisting young people experiencing homelessness, women and children escaping domestic violence, or people currently living in crisis accommodation; Providing no new funding for building or acquiring public and social housing in the 2011 State Budget; and Providing the lowest targets for upgrading public housing and assisting families at risk of homelessness.



Richard
Wynne,
Shadow
Minister
for Housing

SouthEast will have up to three representatives at the National Co-operatives Conference on 24—25 October 2012 at Port Macquarie, NSW.



NEWSLETTER SURVEY

With this issue there is a survey on Housing Futures. We would appreciate your feedback as this will enable us to develop a more relevant and better newsletter.

We would appreciate your views on how many people in your household read the newsletter, how much of the newsletter is read, the frequency of publication, the content and design and any suggestions you may have for improvement.

RENT REVIEW

SouthEast undertakes income and rent reviews every 12 months. The review requires all members to provide income information for all household members who are 18 years or over. At the completion of the review, the amount will be calculated and members receive 60 days notice advising the date and amount that will be required to be paid.

When requested, members must provide the information on income by the due date or it will be assumed that members no longer require rebated rent and will be charged market rent.

In a letter of 28 March 2012 members were informed about this year's rent review. The letter reminds members that they have to complete two forms - Household Particulars Form and a Statutory Declaration Form. Members are also required to provide income information from all sources of household income.

CO-OPERATORS BOOKLET

Consideration is being given to publishing a booklet called Australian Co-operators—comprising views on co-operation and co-operatives.

There would be between 10—20 contributors. The copy deadline would be the end of August 2012.

Members who are interested in contributing should contact the General Manager Ian McLaren.

No final decision has been made on whether or not to proceed.

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